Executive Committee Nr.27

February 1951

Not for publication

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Bièvres, France

January 29 - February 1, 1951

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Appendix 1 : Letter to the member Churches

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Appendix 3 : id. (in Swiss Francs)

Appendix 4 : Statement to be communicated to the Secretary of the British Council of Churches in answer to his letter of January 17, 1951.

Not for publication

Executive Committee Nr.27
February , 1951

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Bièvres, France
January 29 - February 1, 1951

1. Attendance

a. Members : Bishop Eivind Berggrav
Dr.Marc Boegner
The Bishop of Chichester
Dr.Leslie E.Cooke
Dr.Franklin Clark Fry
Mr.Kenneth G.Grubb
Dr.Alphoms Koechlin
Dr.Martin Niemöller
Bishop G.Bromley Oxnam
Metropolitan Pant: leimon
Dr.Gordon Sisco
Mrs.Leslie Swain
Mr.Charles P.Taft
Prof.Thomas Taylor
Archimandrite Karabinis

b. Consultant :
The Rev.Norman Goodall, International Missionary Council

c. Staff : The Rev.Robert S.Bilheimer
Miss Sarah Chakko
Dr.Nils Ehrenström
Miss Jean Fraser
Dr.Henry Smith Leiper
Dr.Robert C.Mackie
Dr.O.Frederick Nolde
Mr.Frank Northam
The Rev.Oliver S.Tomkins
Dr.W.A.Visser 't Hooft

2. Presiding: The Bishop of Chichester, Chairman, and Dr.Franklin C.Fry, Vice-Chairman .

3. Worship. Morning and evening services were held in the chapel each day , conducted by different members of the Committee .

4. Tribute to Archbishop Germanos.

The Bishop of Chichester , President Boegner and Dr.Koechlin each paid tribute to Archbishop Germanos. Each spoke with heartfelt appreciation of Archbishop Germanos as a Christian , as a leader of the Orthodox Churches and as one of the pioneers of the ecumenical movement . It was

AGREED : to adopt the following resolution :

The Executive Committee express their deep sympathy with the Oecumenical Patriarch and the Church of Greece on the death of Archbishop Germanos, Metropolitan of Thyateira, joint President of the World Council of Churches, and their sense of profound gratitude to Almighty God for the great service the Archbishop has rendered to the whole ecumenical movement for very many years. They have a special reason for thankfulness for the part he played in the formation of the World Council of Churches and in its guidance at and after the First Assembly at Amsterdam, as well as for his contributions to the Faith and Order Movement and the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work. And they warmly recognize the steadfast leadership he gave in his own communion in the ecumenical field. They desire further to testify to their great sense of personal loss , and of their affection for one who was so courteous , considerate and devoted a colleague in their common work .

The Executive Committee would be very glad if the joint Presidents could communicate the sympathy of the World Council of Churches to the Oecumenical Patriarch; and request the General Secretary to prepare a minute containing an appreciation of Archbishop Germanos' connection with the Ecumenical movement and a brief record of his career to the Central Committee at their next meeting.

Metropolitan Panteleimon expressed his appreciation for these expressions on behalf of the different members of the Executive Committee and on behalf of the Committee itself .

5. Apology and Substitution.

The General Secretary presented an apology for absence from Bishop Brilioth, and introduced Archimandrite Karabinis,who had been asked by Archbishop Germanos to attend in his place .

6. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of July 5 - 7 , 1950, were approved as distributed .

7. General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary indicated that he would not make a long report , owing to the fact that the agenda covers nearly every important item of the W.C.C. work . The following,however, are not included in the agenda :

a. The Church , the Churches and the World Council of Churches. It is already clear that the document "The Church , the Churches and the World Council of Churches" represents the most valuable and enduring work done by the last meeting of the Central Committee . It has been widely translated and used. Archbishop Germanos , for instance ,personally translated it into the Greek , and during a visit to Greece after Toronto introduced it to the Church there . It may be that this trip had a positive influence upon the subsequent decision of the Holy Synod to make final its relationship to the World Council. The Church of England has sent an official letter indicating its response. Not all responses have been in agreement ; some express criticism - a feeling that we have been too cautious and careful , that we have lost a certain element of dynamism . It must be made clear throughout all the discussion of the document that it is not meant by any means as the last word on the matter , but rather that it represents the beginning of a process .

b. Church of Greece. The action of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece , according to which the Church of Greece will participate fully in the World Council of Churches, is of the greatest importance .

c. Latin Countries Conference. The Conference of representatives of Churches from the Latin Countries held in the autumn at Torre Pellice was a definite implementation of the Central Committee action on religious liberty. It was also an important meeting for the work of interchurch aid. It was the first World Council of Churches Conference which had adequate representation from Spain . Its declaration on religious liberty was strong and specific .

d. Korea. The Central Committee resolution on Korea has produced more comment than any other document of the World Council . Reactions have been both positive and negative, with the strongest negative comments coming from Hungary , Czechoslovakia, France and some Asian countries as well as from pacifist circles .

e. The international situation. In the critical days of November and December the World Council could not speak, but it was nevertheless active . The Bishop of Chichester issued a prayer for peace to the member Churches . Bishop Sherrill, the Bishop of Chichester , Dr.Nolde, Mr.Grubb and the General Secretary were in constant communication and worked together on approaches to several governments which have certainly had a bearing on the situation . In order to consider the present situation and what the World Council might now be able to say, the Bishop of Chichester had called a meeting prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee . All members of the Executive had been invited , in addition to a limited number of others, and most had attended. The results of the meeting will be before the Executive Committee at a later time (See item 9) .

f. Relationship with Eastern Europe. Through the visits last summer and autumn of Dr.Fry and Robert Tobias, and the visit to Geneva of Dr. Glumac, relationships have been maintained with the Churches in Yugoslavia. No World Council person has been able to get to Hungary ,

Czechoslovakia or China . It is clear that we must make a desparate effort at adequate interpretation of our Churches to each other. The gulf is widening because of lack of information and of spiritual imagination on both sides . There are some rumors, not substantiated, that attempts are made to form an ecumenical movement within the communist dominated countries .

g. Ecumenical Commission for European Cooperation. A first report of this Commission has been issued. This Commission has not been set up by the World Council officially. Nevertheless it grows out of the World Council of Churches fellowship .

h. Journeys. The following journeys of World Council leaders deserve special mention : the Archbishop of Canterbury visited Australia and New Zealand and was able to give much attention there to concerns of the World Council ; Dr.Fry has just been around the world giving special attention to the position of refugees in the Far East, Near East and Europe on behalf of the U.S.A. Churches ; Oliver Tomkins has been to the Near East, India , Ceylon and Pakistan in preparation for the Lund Conference on Faith and Order; Nils Ehrenström has been on an extended visit to Germany at the invitation of the Religious Affairs Branch , dealing with the faculties of theology on the ecumenical movement ; Hendrik Kraemer is now on a journey to Pakistan , South India, Ceylon , North India , Burma , Siam and Indonesia dealing with laymen's work and the problems of syncretism ; the General Secretary, Robert Mackie and Sarah Chakko have all been to the United States .

i. Roman Catholics. There has been a strong and spontaneous reaction to the proclamation of the new mariological dogma. It has been said that the World Council has organized this reaction , but this is not true . The reactions differ , but all show that the dogma, contrary to Roman Catholic anticipations , has had a considerable effect upon relations between Roman Catholics and non-Roman Catholics .

j. Attacks on the World Council of Churches. The attacks which have been previously reported continue, and now begin to show bad effects upon some parts of our constituency. The Presbyterian Church of Brazil has informed us that they have not confirmed the action of their delegate at Amsterdam, and that they therefore cannot be listed as a member Church. Other Churches in New Zealand and Mexico have confirmed their membership in spite of attacks on the World Council, made by a minority in their midst. There is a widening gap between the International Council of Christian Churches and the World Evangelical Alliance , the latter maintaining an attitude of neutrality in its policy toward other ecumenical bodies .

Brief discussion of the General Secretary's report centered chiefly around the last point, it being indicated that experience in Germany especially in regard to weeks of prayer indicated that the World Council of Churches and the World Evangelical Alliance may be able to work together on some points. In England,however, this same issue has resulted in difficulties . It is apparent that the W.E.A. is being subjected to strong pressure from the United States to assume a more critical attitude toward the W.C.C.

8. Plans for the Central Committee.

a. Date and place . The date , as set by the Central Committee at Toronto, for the next meeting is August 4 - 11. The place is Le Rosey , a boys school at Rolle , Switzerland, which is located between Geneva and Lausanne .

Dr.Koechlin stated that the Central Committee would be very welcome in Switzerland and indicated that the Swiss Federation of Churches and the Church of the Canton de Vaud were planning to hold an ecumenical service in the Cathedral of Lausanne and making other arrangements .

b. Subject matter. The General Secretary indicated that at the Chichester and Toronto meetings , it had been found helpful to consider one or two main subjects . Two suggestions are made for the next meeting :

The relation of Missions , evangelism , ecumenism. The proposal that this subject be discussed grew out of the meeting of the Joint Committee of the I.M.C. - W.C.C. It is clear that our relationship to the I.M.C. is not just an administrative one ; it has implications as to our common purpose and the specific function of each . The tendency to speak of missionary minded and ecumenically minded people is an illustration . At root we stand for the same thing,but we have not succeeded yet in making this clear . In addition , if we take this subject , the work done on it will be good preparation for the next Assembly

The role of the World Council of Churches in time of conflict. Many misunderstandings as to what the World Council can do and ought to do in the present time of conflict , lead to the suggestion that these might be clarified in Central Committee discussion .

In addtion to these subjects , the agenda would include the normal business of the Central Committee , including a large amount of attention to the next Assembly and plans for the World Council after 1953.

The Chairman called upon Mr.Goodall to comment upon the first proposal. The I.M.C.,he said, is grateful for the opportunity which the discussion of this subject presents . The terms involved are capable of being distinguished . Evangelism is every Christian's responsibility to proclaim the gospel beyond his local , personal frontier, and the responsibility of every congregation beyond its local frontier. Missions is the extension of the primary evangelistic responsibility of each Christian and Church to the world sphere across geographical ,cultural and racial frontiers. Ecumenism is the Churches' awareness of their world wide scope and togetherness. The possibility of this distinction , has resulted in separate organizations: evangelism and home missions ; missions and foreign missions ; ecumenicism and the ecumenical organizations . In recent years , however, this separateness has lost reality. Local evangelism has world wide implications; missionaries are confronted with problems of the evangelist everywhere.Ecumenism involves both. It is our hope that the Central Committee may address itself to the clarification of these relations, and if so, that the Executive Committee may authorize the officers of the W.C.C. and the I.M.C. to prepare for the discussion .

In discussion,it was pointed out that since the formation of the World Council , many Churches which work on the mission field through unofficial mission societies had had to face this issue, and that a discussion of it at the Central Committee would be welcome .

In addition , it was hoped that the discussion would not result merely in a clarification of the relationship between the I.M.C.and the W.C.C., but rather in a statement of the fundamental missionary responsibility of the W.C.C.

Following this discussion , it was

AGREED : that the subject "The relationship between evangelism , missions and ecumenism" be one of the subjects for discussion at the next meeting of the Central Committee .

Discussion of the second subject brought forth the following genera points :

It was agreed that this should not refer to war only, but to the basic conflicts in the world, and that therefore it should constitute a subject in itself, rather than grow out of the discussion of the report of the C.C.I.A. The background for such a discussion might be the various orders in which men live and which create a conflict of loyalties. In this event, the loyalty of a Christian to his nation, to his own Church , to the ecumenical movement , to political ideologies would need to be examined . This would throw light on the problem of maintaining the ecumenical fellowship in a time of tension and conflict.

Another suggestion was : "What do we mean by our unity in Christ ?" This is a phrase which is common , but we have not really grappled with it , especially in this context of world tension . Such a discussion would have to deal with the question in what sense it may be said that the Body of Christ is not broken ; and with the divisions and levels of loyalty existing within the Church. This is particularly important from the viewpoint of the younger generation and of the younger Churches,who tend to feel that we have not been realistic in our dealing with our unity and our divisions . This discussion , it was suggested, might well deal with the concept of supra-nationality and the responsibility which Christians and Churches have to achieve this in a Christian sense.

After this discussion , it was

AGREED : that a second subject for consideration by the Central Committee shall be "The responsibility of the Churches and the World Council of Churches in times of tension" , and that in the preparatory papers careful consideration should be given to the points raised in the above discussion .

Brief discussion in regard to the business of the World Council of Churches to be discussed by the Central Committee indicated the desirability of starting preliminary thought next summer concerning the structure and staffing of the World Council following the Assembly .

It was pointed out that the overall structure as contained in the Constitution and Rules was not being questioned, but that there is a need to examine the manner in which major committees are handled and the way in which the various departments are organized and staffed . It was following this discussion ,

AGREED : to authorize the appointment of a sub-committee at the meeting of the Central Committee to begin an examination of the structure of the World Council ; this sub-committee to continue its work for a sufficient length of time to complete a report to the Central Committee preceding the Assembly .

9. Letter to the Member Churches

Following the general recommendations of the pre-executive committee meeting (see item 7 e), and after protracted discussion in sub-committee and plenary session , it was

AGREED : to adopt the letter to the member Churches (see Appendix 1) for transmission to the member Churches ; to authorize its release to the press as soon as it will have reached the member Churches ; and to authorize the preparation of an abstract of the substance of the letter for immediate release to the press .

10. Preparations for the Second Assembly.

The General Secretary presented recommendations in regard to the Second Assembly from the Staff Study Coordinating Committee , based upon the Toronto decisions and subsequent consideration by the Business Committee of the Study Department. There was discussion and action taken upon these recommendations as follows :

AGREED : that the following statement is adopted as descriptive of the general subject to which the Commission of Twenty Five is to address itself :

> " In order to implement the Toronto Statement on the theme of the Second Assembly, the Commission of Twenty Five should conceive its task as speaking to the Churches , but as speaking to the Churches about their witness in and to the world. The Commission should therefore seek to state clearly and simply what the essential common message of the Churches is , and in what way we can have that message presented . In doing so it should also deal concretely with the specific challenges of the Church which come from the vast bodies and movements of men which stand against or outside the Christian Church . It should furthermore state what must be changed in the manner of proclamation, worship and life of the Churches in order that the witness may be more convincing (glaubwürdig), and may not in practice be contradicted by the Church and misunderstood outside the Church" .

AGREED : that the matter of a title for the Second Assembly be referred to the Commission of Twenty Five for suggestions.

AGREED : that the Executive Committee ask the Faith and Order Committee to consider the following proposal : that the Faith and Order topic of the second week be "The unity which we have and the unity of the Church in God's purpose", recognising that this will involve the Lund meeting and its conclusions , the ecclesiological meaning of the ecumenical movement , the role and contribution of confessions , and non-theological factors in church unity ; that responsibility for the preparation of this subject be committed to the Executive Committee of the Commission on Faith and Order .

AGREED : that the subject of evangelism for the second week be defined as "the relationship of the Church to sections of society at present largely separated from it , or in process of becoming separated from it "; that responsibility for preparation of this subject be committed to the Study Department Committee, working through a special Committee formed for this purpose ; that this study be related to the I.M.C.'s study of the Missionary Obligation of the Church .

AGREED : that the subject of the Responsible Society for the second week be defined as the positive affirmation of the Christian Faith, with regard to a Responsible Society in its political, social and economic aspects , taking account both of contrary faiths and messianisms, and of the failure of existing social and political systems to embody a responsible society ; that responsibility for the preparation of this subject be committed to the Study Department Committee , acting through its working group on the Responsible Society .

AGREED : that in the study of race relations for the second week, the principle be adopted that in this study the angle of race relations within the Church be emphasized , particularly with regard to the ethnic Church as a unit within the Churches , and its relationship to the surrounding community ; that a special committee or agency be developed to deal with this issue ; that the General Secretary be requested to make proposals as to the character of this committee to the Central Committee in August 1951 .

AGREED : that the subject of the responsibility of the laity of the Church for the second week be defined generally in terms of "the vocation of the Christian in the secular world", and that it be linked with the study already set up on the meaning of work ; that responsibility for preparation of this subject be committed to the Ecumenical Institute in cooperation with the Study Department, the Secretary for Laymen's Work of the Department of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees , and the Secretary of the Commission on the Life and Work of Women in the Church .

AGREED : to recommend to the Central Committee that it appoint a Worship Committee for the Second Assembly at its next meeting ; that responsibility for the proposed biblical expositions at the beginning of the morning sessions be committed to the Study Department Committee, acting through its working group on the Bible, and in consultation with the Worship Committee of the Assembly .

AGREED : that in reference to preparatory material no further decision beyond the action of the 1950 meeting of the Central Committee is necessary in regard to the statement of 10,000 words of the Commission of Twenty Five ; the popular leaflets ; and the first drafts of statements of Assembly subjects . That in reference to the general surveys on each of the subsidiary themes , each committee or working party must be given considerable liberty in determining what type of general survey will be useful in its field , and that the surveys should not aim at being comprehensive but should give a clear over-all picture, with specific examples and quotations of the most important things that have been said and done by the Churches in each field in recent years . That, in addition , all possible use should be made of the work of local , regional and central groups , and efforts should be made to set them up where they do not exist.

AGREED : to authorise the Study Department Committee to coordinate and generally supervise the study preparations for the Assembly .

AGREED : to recommend to the Central Committee that it reconsider the distribution of time between the first and the second week of the Assembly .

11. Dates of future meetings.

In the course of the discussion concerning the Second Assembly, question was raised as to the places in which major World Council meetings are held, including the Assembly. Several members expressed their strong conviction that it was essential to hold a meeting in Asia in the near future. To continue to hold all major World Council meetings in North America and the countries of Western Europe creates the impression that the World Council is almost exclusively concerned with the Churches in the North Atlantic region. On the other hand, if a major World Council meeting could be held elsewhere, the World Council could more easily proceed to hold the Assembly in the United States as planned. Moreover, there would result the impact of a completely different environment upon the thinking of the World Council, to its benefit and enrichment. In the light of these considerations, a small sub-committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Bishop Oxnam. The report of this sub-committee was adopted in the following form :

AGREED : to adopt, subject to the approval of the Central Committee, the following program of meetings ; recognizing the desirability of holding a major World Council meeting in the Far East, and that the omission of one Central Committee meeting and the occurence of that scheduled for India in 1952 would provide the means and time to accumulate the necessary finances ; and that the occurence of the Faith and Order World Conference in 1952 and a Central Committee meeting in Asia in 1952 would make exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to hold an Assembly in 1953 :

1951	August 1-4	Executive Committee, Rolle, Switzerland.
	August 4-11	Central Committee, Rolle, Switzerland.
1952	February 4-8	Executive Committee, London.
	August 12-14	Meeting of such members of the Executive Committee as are already planning to attend the Faith and Order World Conference at Lund, Sweden.
	December 24-31	(precise days uncertain). Central Committee, India.
1953	August 3-8	Enlarged Executive Committee, it being herewith recommended that this meeting be enlarged by ten or twelve members, the General Secretary being requested to present a proposal for this enlargement to the Central Committee meeting in 1951. Germany.
1954	February	Executive Committee, Bossey.
	August	Second Assembly, Evanston, Ill.

12. South African Delegation.

The General Secretary reported that immediately following the Central Committee meeting, exploratory letters were sent off to South Africa concerning the proposed delegation of ecumenical fellowship, and that in October the official letters were sent. Only recently have the replies been received. Three types of replies have come ; from the Anglican and Congregational Churches, a welcome to the proposed delegation ; from the Afrikaans Churches, a welcome in one case to a visit by the General Secretary and in another case to a white delegation ; from the Executive Committee of the Christian Council, a proposal that the General Secretary come for an extended visit to prepare for an eventual delegation.

It was

AGREED : that following the action of the Central Committee, the entire matter should be referred to the Central Committee at its next meeting.

13. Joint Committee, IMC-WCC.

a) East Asia Secretariat. The General Secretary reported that following the Central Committee, the IMC took favorable action on the appointment of Dr. Rajah Manikam as the Secretary for East Asia, and that Dr. Manikam accepted as of January 1. A request, however, has come from the National Christian Council of India asking that Dr. Manikam be permitted to remain at his post until April 1. In view of the generosity of the National Christian Council in the whole matter, this request had been granted. It was

AGREED : that the Executive Committee note that Dr. Manikam is to start his duties as the East Asia Secretary on April 1, and expresses the strong hope that no further postponement will be necessary and that he may be able to begin his travel in that capacity at an early date.

b) Committee on the Christian Approach to the Jews. The General Secretary read the minute of the Whitby meeting concerning the appointment of representatives on this Committee, and explained that three representatives from the World Council were desired for each section of the Committee, a total of nine in all. After considerable discussion, it was

AGREED : that at this stage the Chairman be authorized to appoint one representative of the World Council to each section of the Committee on the Christian Approach to the Jews.

c) Ambon. The General Secretary reported the action of the staffs of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council in responding quickly to an appeal from Ambon for help, indicating that the Swedish missionary, Mr. Alm had been asked to visit Ambon on behalf of both agencies to extend fellowship, offer the help of limited funds, and ascertain the real needs of the Churches there as a result of the recent fighting. It was

AGREED : to confirm this action of the staff and to express gratitude for the possibility of quick assistance thus given ; and to request that a message of greeting be sent to the Christian community in Ambon.

d) Interchurch aid, IMC-WCC. Dr. Mackie reported that a procedure had been worked out concerning a closer cooperation between the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches in interchurch aid operations. He presented a statement of principles and it was

AGREED : to adopt the following as a statement of policy regarding relief and interchurch aid :

To fulfill this common purpose of assisting the Churches, the WCC and IMC agree :

1. that from time to time to be determined upon consultation, there be presented to both agencies a total picture of what the Churches are doing in the field of relief and interchurch aid, together with a picture of needs with special attention to the presentation of needs hitherto neglected.
2. that when the WCC Department of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees receives an appeal for aid from Churches outside Europe it clear with the appropriate area Secretary of the IMC to discover whether the appeal is outside the realm of normal mission board work and what plans are being made to meet it ; and if action is appropriate, the General Secretaries of the IMC and WCC shall decide what shall be done, either jointly or by one agency on behalf of both.
3. that in considering the appeals of European-Continental mission societies for help, the IMC shall ask the WCC Department of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees for advice and information which may have a bearing upon the request.

4. that joint staff meetings be planned to discuss questions concerning the more fruitful use of funds, and needs which may be neglected.

e) Time of meetings. The General Secretary reported the suggestion of the IMC that the WCC have decennial meetings of the Assembly and biennial meetings of the Central Committee. It was

AGREED : to refer this proposal to the committee on the future structure of the World Council of Churches.

14. Membership.

An up to date list of the member Churches was circulated, with request for any corrections in the list prior to its being printed. The General Secretary raised a number of questions as to specially difficult cases of classification and decisions on these cases were taken.

The General Secretary reported that the four Churches on which action had been taken at the Toronto meeting had been declared elected.

The General Secretary reported that he had asked the Church of Norway to name a person to fill the place of Bishop Berggrav on the Central Committee, made vacant through Bishop Berggrav's election as President ; but that the Church of Norway did not want to name a person for reasons of economy. It was

AGREED : that the Executive Committee expresses its desire that this place be filled, and requests the Church of Norway to reconsider its decision.

It was noted that the place of Dr. William Barrow Pugh, made vacant through Dr. Pugh's death, is to be filled by Dr. Ralph W. Lloyd.

15. C.C.I.A. Report.

Dr. Nolde reported on the C.C.I.A. as follows :

a) A report on the UN General Assembly Fifth Session and CCIA action in reference to it is available at the CCIA offices.

b) Administrative matters. In the autumn, the officers of the CCIA went on a trip to Paris-Bonn-Berlin for the purpose of conferring with Church leaders, encouraging commissions, and talks with leaders of governement. This rapid visitation has proved a valuable technique. Mr. Richard M. Fagley has been appointed Executive Secretary, to begin work in the New York office as of March 1, 1951. Mr. Elfan Rees spent most of the autumn working on behalf of the CCIA and Department of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees at the UN, and a liaison office is being established in Geneva, especially in reference to refugees. Relationships with the UN food organization are being developed under the leadership of Mr. John Reisner.

c) Substantive matters. These are reported fully in the published report concerning the UN General Assembly Fifth Session. Day by day activities in other realms may be illustrated by reference to the work of the CCIA on the Peace Observer Commissions, representation at the time of the Attlee-Truman talks, and work on religious liberty provisions in the recent Yugoslav-USA agreement.

d) At the beginning of the CCIA, work was confined almost wholly to the issue of human rights. Now a second major line of work is beginning, under Mr. Fagley, in reference to the technical assistance programme. It is planned that both Dr. Nolde and Mr. Fagley will work together on immediate day to day issues.

After brief discussion, it was

AGREED : to receive the report of the CCIA with gratitude and appreciation.

16. Letter from the World Peace Council.

The General Secretary reported that the Presidents of the World Council of Churches and the General Secretary had received a letter from M. Joliot-Curie of the World Peace Council. The draft of a possible reply was presented. After discussion it was

AGREED : to recommend to the Presidents that the C.C.I.A. should be instructed to send an answer to Prof. Joliot-Curie.

17. Letter from Princess Wilhelmina.

The General Secretary read a letter from Princess Wilhelmina and it was

AGREED : to reply to Princess Wilhelmina that the Committee has received her letter and the accompanying brochure with deep appreciation ; and to send to Princess Wilhelmina the letter to the Churches drawn up by the Committee.

18. Committee on the Basis.

The General Secretary reminded the Committee of the action of the Assembly calling for the appointment of a committee to deal with communications from the Churches concerning the basis. He further reminded the Committee that one such communication has been received, from the Remonstrant Church of Holland.

In the discussion it was emphasised that following the action of the Assembly in 1948 the full Christocentric character of the basis must be maintained, but that suggestions from the Churches as to the form of the basis must be considered with great thoroughness. Indications were given that further official communications on this subject may be forthcoming. It is clearly understood that any Church wishing to address such a communication to the World Council of Churches is at liberty to do so.

After this discussion, it was

AGREED : to recommend to the Central Committee that a committee be appointed consisting of Dr. Douglas Horton, chairman, Bishop Anders Nygren, Father George Florovsky to study suggestions issuing from the Churches as to the form of the basis, the committee to report at a future meeting of the Central Committee.

19. Report of the Department of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees.

Dr. Mackie reported on the Department as follows :

a) The Service Programme of the Department, comprising Administration, Service to Refugees, Health and Scholarship, had been completed financially with balances on Refugees and Health, and deficits on Administration and Scholarship which were more than covered by balances from 1949. A new programme, totalling $ 700,000 had been approved by the Finance Committee and would be submitted under that item. Dr. Mackie bore tribute to the action of Bishop Oxnam in bringing the Department's Service Programme Budget within the control of the Executive Committee and thus ensuring a more reliable response from the member Churches.

b) It was important to realize that in addition to the Service Programme the Department carried out an interchurch aid project programme, through which member Churches and national committees contributed to the pressing needs of the Churches in Europe.

c) An interchurch aid consultation in October had produced a document entitled "A Strategy for Inter-church Aid in Europe for 1951", which had been printed in the autumn issue of The Ecumenical Review. This statement would provide direction for the whole work of interchurch aid in 1951.

d) In the service to refugees, Mr. Rees had spent two months in New York in cooperation with CCIA where his work at Lake Success had influenced the mandate of the High Commissioner for Refugees, and action in relation to refugees from Palestine. Dr. Chandler and his staff had now completed the joint task of the CWS Displaced Persons Operation and the WCC Service to Refugees in relation to bringing DP's to the USA. 30,000 had already been sent, and a second 30,000 or thereabouts would go in the next nine months. In addition many detailed services were being performed for refugees of many Churches in Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium and France.

e) A conference on the problems of refugees from Palestine under the joint auspices of the IMC and the Department had been planned to take place in Beirut in the early part of May. The appointment of a member of the Committee as a delegate was asked for, and it was

AGREED : to invite Dr. Boegner to attend the conference, if his plans should allow him to do so.

It was also, on the suggestion of Dr. Niemöller,

AGREED : to ask the Administrative Committee of the Department to consider the possibility that Dr. Forell, who was going from Sweden to Germany in connection with refugee work, should be related in some way to the Department of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees.

Metropolitan Panteleimon expressed the thanks of the Church of Greece for the help he had received from other Churches through the Department.

Bishop Oxnam requested that a detailed statement of the service program for 1951 be prepared, showing in the four categories of administration, refugees, health, and scholarship, a detailed explanation of work done and sums expended. Dr. Mackie agreed that the Department would produce this report.

20. Report of the Study Department.

Dr. Nils Ehrenström recalled the inquiries undertaken by the Study Department and the different ways in which the Department sought to pursue them : through working groups directly sponsored by the Department, and through a wide exchange of documents and correspondence.

In the field of "Christian Action in Society", increasing attention was being paid to the problems raised by communism. It had been decided to issue a regular documentation service of a semi-confidential nature, providing factual and interpretative material on the life and struggles of the Churches in communist-dominated areas. One of the documents, analizing the situation in China, "Christian Witness and Communist Society", had awaked a particularly cordial response. Furthermore competent people in the West had been asked for interpretative statements on Christian attitudes to communism in their respective countries, the object being to obtain an analysis of prevalent trends of opinion and of problems exercising the Christian mind. Mr. Charles West, formerly missionary in China, now Presbyterian field worker in Germany, is helping in these studies, as a field consultant.

Another development in the field of "Responsible Society" was the creation of the (independent) "Ecumenical Commission on European Cooperation", composed of Christian economists, politicians, government officials. The chairman was Mr. André Philip of Paris, vice-chairman Dr. C.L. Patijn (Holland) and Mr. Abrecht of the Study Department served as secretary. It had held its first full meeting in the middle of January and had produced a remarkable statement on "European Issues", with a series of provocative questions addressed to different nations, concerning their moral responsibilities in the realm of European cooperation.

Various evaluative studies, related to the inquiry on "The Evangelisation of Man in Modern Mass Society", were now well under way. The American Study Committee had produced four preliminary reports in its critical investigations of ten selected evangelistic projects. The Secretary in charge of the inquiry had completed a comprehensive survey on the evangelistic situation in France, similar to the earlier one on Holland ; others on India and Latin America were scheduled for this year. It was the objective of the whole inquiry to explore the possibilities of a new "break-through" evangelism, seeking to make the Gospel relevant to large sections of society which now are alienated from it.

The manuscript of the symposium on "Biblical Authority Today", which marked a decisive step forward in the ecumenical interpretation of the Biblical message for contemporary society, had been sent to the English

publisher last September. The next stage was the production of three monographic studies on the Biblical Teaching on "Man in Society", "Work and Vocation" and "Justice and Law". The Department had arranged an international conference on the latter subject in August 1950, and a full report had been published. First drafts of the projected books on the three subjects were scheduled to be ready in the summer. It was hoped that this inquiry would help to create a proper Biblical climate for the preparations of the second Assembly.

Finally Dr. Ehrenström reported on a five weeks' visit he had recently made to the theological faculties in Germany, at the invitation of the HICOG Religious Affairs Branch, to discuss the bearing of the ecumenical movement on theological teaching and research. It was planned to incorporate the findings of this trip in a survey on "ecumenics in the theological curriculum".

Professor Eichrodt, of Basle, and Dr. Sittler Jr., of Chicago, had been nominated to fill two vacancies on the Study Department Committee, and it was

AGREED : to recommend to the Central Committee the appointment of Dr. Joseph Sittler and Professor Eichrodt to the Sutdy Department Committee, and to authorize an invitation to them to attend the summer meeting of the Study Department Committee.

21. Report of the Youth Department.

Miss Fraser reported on developments since the Toronto Committee.

a) Staff. Rev. B.T. Molander had begun work in November as European Secretary and was now travelling in Scandinavia.

b) Interchurch Aid. New procedure had been established with the Interchurch Aid Department to ensure the integration of the Youth interchurch aid proposals in the total programme. Efforts were being made in cooperation with the Service to Refugees to relate young refugees to the Christian youth community in the countries where they are now residing and in the world.

The Work Camp Programme was now fully the responsibility of the Youth Department. A joint committee had been set up with members of the Interchurch Aid Department to administer this programme .

c) Greece. The Church of Greece had invited the cooperation of the Youth Department in securing 100 youth delegates to the St. Paul Festival. Already a number of theological students had expressed their desire to take part.

The vice-chairman of the Youth Department, Father Alexandre Schmemann of the Orthodox Institute in Paris, was at present on a visit to Greece. His aim was to study youth work there and the opportunities for inter-orthodox cooperation.

d) World Conference of Christian Youth. The five world Christian organizations cooperating in the World Christian Youth Commission, were planning a world conference to take part in December 1952. In view of the importance of the changes taking place in Asia, the proposal

was to hold it in India and to make it explicitly "a world conference in an Asian setting". The number of delegates would be limited to 300.

The preparation of this conference was bringing the Department into close relation with the International Missionary Council at many points.

The Director intends herself to go to Asia from autumn 1951 until after the conference.

e) Latin American conference. A conference of Evangelical Youth in Latin America is being planned for late 1951.

f) Committee plans. As there was no major world meeting to bring young people together in 1951, it has been decided to hold the Committee in three sessions : European members in April 1951, American members in May 1951 and Asian members in December 1951.

g) Youth consultants to Central Committee. It was greatly hoped that the privilege granted to three young people to attend the Central Committee in 1950 would be continued.

It was

AGREED : to invite three youth consultants to the Central Committee meeting in 1951.

It was also, after discussion,

AGREED : to continue the same procedure for youth consultants at the second Assembly as was used for the first Assembly.

21. Report of Faith and Order.

Mr. Tomkins brought three points before the Committee :

1) A report on the action of the Faith and Order Executive in September 1950 and plans for the Executive in February 1951. Since the Toronto meeting the Faith and Order Commission and issued, as authorised, an official letter of invitation to the Churches for the Lund Conference in 1952. So far only seventeen replies had been received but the forthcoming Executive would nevertheless have to make an estimate of the delegates allocated to each member Church likely to participate in the Lund Conference and communicate it of them. The preparatory brochure, The Church in the Purpose of God, had already been issued in large English and American editions and French and German versions were in preparation. The reports of the three theological commissions on The Church. Ways of Worship and Intercommunion would be published in the course of the next few weeks. Thus there would shortly be available to the participating Churches a considerable amount of literature for preparing the minds not only of the delegates but of wide ranges of Church people for the Lund Conference. It was hoped that in every area popular presentations of the Lund themes would also be prepared, the only one so far published being the American booklet, Exploring Paths of Church Unity by J.W. Kennedy. It was

AGREED : to authorise the appointment of Dr. E. Emmen of the Netherlands Reformed Church to the vacancy on the Commission created by the resignation of Baron van Boetzelaer van Dubbeldam.

2) The secretary then introduced a brief discussion of the place of Faith and Order in the future structure of the World Council. He said that this subject had already been briefly discussed at the last Faith and Order Executive but that it was important to discuss it in the World Council committees also so that there should not grow up any serious divergence of opinions about it. The issues were principally (a) the place of Faith and Order conferences now that they took place within the context of the World Council. Previously Faith and Order had lived from one independent world conference to the next, but it was now necessary to consider the relationship of such conferences to the fact that the World Council held its own official representative assemblies. (b) The size and character of the Faith and Order Commission. The Continuation Committees appointed by Lausanne and Edinburgh had been large representative bodies of 150 or more people and their meetings had been of the nature of interim Faith and Order conferences. The question arose whether, after Lund, the Commission should not be a smaller and more expert body to deal with Faith and Order questions within the whole study programme of the World Council. (c) There was some discussion among Faith and Order members as to whether the function of the Faith and Order Commission was to be a group laying concentrated attention upon the need for passing beyond cooperation to the unity of the Church, or whether it should continue to reflect the whole range of opinion in the Council and even to include certain Churches not in its membership, some of whom had taken part in Faith and Order discussions without in any way accepting the thesis that we needed to go beyond cooperation.

The discussion in the Committee concentrated mainly upon the third point. It was stressed that the distinction made by the secretary was difficult to define but there was general agreement that the Faith and Order Commission should continue to be that part of the World Council which continually kept before the whole World Council the question of the need for Christian unity without attempting to lay down the form which that unity should take.

3) The secretary's third point related to the presence of Roman Catholics in Faith and Order conferences. The secretary reminded the Committee that at the Edinburgh Conference there had been present nine unofficial Roman Catholic observers who had been invited as individuals, themselves taking the necessary steps to secure canonical permission. The situation had been decisively changed since then by the circumstances at the time of the Amsterdam Assembly leading up to the publication of the Instruction, De Motione Ecumenica. The issues upon which the secretary asked for advice before the meeting of the Faith and Order Executive, were whether, in principle, the World Council was prepared to continue to seek the presence of individual Roman Catholics at its conferences and secondly whether, whatever might be considered advisable for such meetings as the Assembly, the Faith and Order conference should be free to continue its past traditions. In the course of the discussion it was pointed out that the significance of De Motione Ecumenica was that the Vatican had taken a new attitude of official cognisance of the ecumenical movement. It had now specially laid down from the Roman Catholic side that individuals cannot participate in international

conferences without explicit permission of the Holy See.

After further discussion, it was

AGREED : that Archbishop Brilioth and the Faith and Order Executive should be considered free to continue unofficial and non-committal explorations about the possible terms upon which individual Roman Catholics might be present at the Lund Conference as invited observers, but that no final decision would be taken in the matter until the Faith and Order Executive had presented a further report to the next meeting of the Central Committee.

22. Report on the Commission on the Life and Work of Women in the Church.

Miss Chakko reported on the work of the Commission as follows :

a) The work of the secretary had involved principally travel to Germany (twice), Denmark, the United States, France, for the purpose of interpreting the work of the Commission and of securing interest in it.

b) Work on the first brochure of the Commission is progressing. The first draft was ready at Toronto, and has received many strong criticisms. Miss Van Asch Van Wyck has asked to prepare a second draft now in view of these criticisms, and this is in progress. The most marked difference of opinion is between the Continental and American viewpoint, Continental interest centering around the theological concepts underlying the whole matter, and American interest upon the actual fields of service which women should undertake in the Church. Discussion has revealed that the theological problems of both groups are the same, although the expression of them is different and can be divisive. It is hoped that some reconciliation of the two viewpoints can be made before the brochure comes out . There is a handicap in the lack of interdenominational and international experience on the part of many women interested in the Commission and active in their own Churches.

c) The meeting of the Commission scheduled for March has been postponed owing to uncertainty concerning a successor to the secretary and to the fact that the brochure has not been produced and therefore no replies to it are in hand for discussion .

Following Miss Chakko's report, it was

AGREED : to record the appreciation of the Committee to Miss Chakko for her years work , as well as to Isabella Thoburn College for having made this possible.

23. Staff Matters.

a. The Bishop of Chichester stated that the first matter had to do with Bishop Stephen Neill , recognized in all parts of the world as one of the most valued members of the World Council staff . For some time, Bishop Neill has been in bad health, although to many this may not have

been immediately apparent . Some months ago, the Presidents of the World Council and in particular the Archbishop of Canterbury had been informed that he was in ill health. Since then , Bishop Neill has been under the care of doctors, and is now especially so. In view of this fact , he had felt obliged to present his resignation. This action is a source of deep regret to him as it is to us . It is , indeed , a great blow to the World Council .

The Bishop of Chichester read Bishop Neill's letter of resignation, and it was

AGREED : to accept Bishop Neill's resignation as Associate General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, with deep regret and with a profound sense of appreciation for the work which he has done for the World Council of Churches and for the ecumenical movement generally; and to authorize the officers of the Central Committee to make the necessary arrangements concerning the terms of the resignation and the date upon which it is to become effective .

Following this action , there was comment as follows :

Dr.Koechlin spoke with moving appreciation of Bishop Neill and with deep regret at his enforced resignation . He had first met Bishop Neill fifteen years ago in India, being then impressed with his brilliance of intellect and depth of spirit . Bishop Neill's coming to the World Council was an occasion for great rejoicing, and all will remember the unique ability in writing and power on the platform which have made him one of the central figures in the World Council. We are grateful for what he has done for the whole ecumenical movement, and hope that he may soon find recovery and continuing work under God's blessing . Our heartiest wishes accompany him .

Dr.Goodall spoke on behalf of the International Missionary Council, indicating his sense of shock and disappointment at the news of Bishop Neill's resignation . In the I.M.C.,we have regarded Bishop Neill by nature , grace and calling as one of us, symbolizing the relation of the two movements to each other. A feeling that Bishop Neill's aggravated illness must be in some measure due to the arduous trip recently taken in the interests of the I.M.C.only adds to our regret at the present situation .

Dr.Visser 't Hooft expressed on behalf of himself and his colleagues on the staff, the deep feeling of loss shared by all . Bishop Neill filled a large place in the World Council and in such a way that he cannot be replaced. His gracious spirit among us, together with his unique and powerful contribution to our work make us realize our loss. Our prayers go with him .

b. After discussion of the question of a successor to the Secretary of the Commission on the Life and Work of Women in the Church , it was

AGREED : to ask the Joint Presidents of the World Council , the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, and the General Secretary to take this and related staff matters under advisement,and to make recommendations to the Executive or Central Committees .

c. After discussion it was also

AGREED : to request Dr.Mackie to give more time as Associate General Secretary to matters of general policy and responsibility, particularly in the absence of the General Secretary .

24. Report of the Finance Committee.

Bishop Oxnam presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee .

A. Actual revenue and expenditure in 1950.

The provisional figures for 1950 suggested that the final accounts for the year would show a surplus of up to $ 13,000. This happy position was , however, not so wholly satisfactory as it might at first sight appear to be . On the revenue side a final total of $ 230,000 was expected from the member Churches in the U.S.A. and slightly over $$ 50,000 from member Churches in other countries or a total of $ 280,000. These figures should be compared with askings of $ 240,000 and $ 75,000 respectively, but the budget had been prepared on the assumption of only $ 300,000 and the approved level of expenditure on the assumption of only $ 290,000 as total revenue from the member Churches . Thus by comparison with the latter figures , the shortfall was likely to be some $ 10,000.

On the expenditure side a final figure was expected to be some $ 310,000 including the Ecumenical Institute . This should be compared with the budget of $ 355,000 and an approved level of expenditure of $ 345,000. It was thus expected that under-expenditure would represent some $ 35,000 but of this total $ 12,000 was under-expenditure by the Ecumenical Institute. The expenditure of the Ecumenical Institute was to be covered by a contribution of $ 10,000 from the General Budget and the balance from the special Rockefeller Fund. Thus , to the extent of $ 12,000 the under-expenditure would reduce the draft on the Rockefeller Fund and would not affect the result on the General Budget for the yeat.

From these figures it was clear that under-expenditure affecting the results for the year amounted to some $ 23,000 against a shortfall of revenue of $ 10,000. The expected surplus for the year of some $ 13,000 was thus entirely attributable to under-expenditure .

The under-expenditure in 1950 was largely the result of special circumstances which would not arise in 1951, or in subsequent years , namely :

(i) the special fund raised by the Canadian Churches to cover the expenses of the Central Committee in Toronto - a generous action by the Canadian Churches which relieved the general budget of expenditure of over $ 18,000 .

(ii) a saving of nearly $ 2,000 because the Far East office was not opened in 1950.

(iii) help from outside bodies for the travel of the Secretaries for Evangelism and Women's Work .

(iv) a "paper saving" of $ 2,000 on the subsidy to C.C.I.A. by reason of an erroneous over-payment in 1949 .

At the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee the Executive Committee

AGREED :

(a) That the provisional report of the 1950 results be received and adoption of the accounts deferred until the Central Committee meeting when the auditors'report would be available .

(b) That the final surplus for the year should be allocated as follows :

to the Ecumenical Press Service the sum necessary to cover the deficit for 1950 (at present estimated at $ 2,500);

up to $ 5,000 to the reserve for the Second World Assembly to raise the amount included in the budget of $ 15,000 to the desired annual level of $ 20,000 ;

the balance to the General Reserve .

B. Ecumenical Press Service accounts for 1950.

By reason of a decline in subscriptions and of the fact that a special gift of $ 1,000 by the Disciples of Christ in 1949 was not repeated in 1950, the provisional accounts of E.P.S. showed a deficit of some $ 2,500. The Finance Sub-Committee had felt that E.P.S. is a valuable and important service and that the necessary funds should be provided for its continuance. On the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee

AGREED : that the subsidy to E.P.S. for 1951 be raised from $ 600 to $ 2,000.

C. 1951 Budget.

After duscussing the revenue prospects from the various countries, the Finance Sub-Committee had decided that the approved level of expenditure for 1951 should be prepared on the following estimates of prospective revenue :

From Rockfeller Fund for Ecumenical Institute	$ 50,000
From Churches associated in the Council and from private gifts for the general budget :	
from U.S.A.	240,000
from countries other than the U.S.A.	57,500
	$347,500

The budget adopted at Toronto was for an expenditure of $365,000. Thus there was need to effect a total economy of $ 17,500. Proposals were laid before the Finance Sub-Committee for net economies (i.e.

economies after taking account of the increased subsidy to E.P.S.) which could be made without reducing the work, sufficient to save a total of $8,500. There remained need to reduce the budget by a further $9,000. After considering various alternatives suggested to the Finance Sub-Committee as to possibilities for effecting this further economy, the Finance Sub-Committee agreed to recommend :

a) that the subsidy from the General Budget to C.C.I.A. be reduced by the $2,500 included in the C.C.I.A. budget for the expense of preparatory studies for the Assembly, and that this sum be provided in 1951 from the 1953 Assembly Budget ;

b) that the provision for the general reserve in the 1951 General Budget be reduced from $20,000 to $16,000 ;

c) that an expenditure budget exceeding revenue prospects by $2,500 be recommended for approval in recognition of the fact that it is extremely difficult in so detailed a budget to state at the beginning of the year just exactly where economies may prove possible, but that responsibility be placed upon the General Secretariat and the Director of the Finance and Business Department to ensure that in practice expenditure be limited to a figure $2,500 below the approved level.

The Executive Committee

AGREED : that the revised level of expenditure totalling $350,000 recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee (See Appendix 2 and 3) be approved as a basis of operations until the Central Committee meeting, and on the understanding stated in c) above that in practice expenditure will be limited to a level of $347,500.

D. Department of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees.

The Finance Sub-Committee had received a report on the 1950 Service Programme of this Department indicating a probable deficit of some $14,000 on Administration and a possible deficit on the Scholarship Programme not exceeding $4,000, both well below the reserves available for those programmes, and expected surpluses of some $20,000 on the Health Programme and up to $ 30,000 on the Refugee Service. At the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee and of the Administrative Committee of the Department, the Executive Committee

AGREED :

a) that the deficits on Administration and Scholarships should be charged to the reserves of those programmes and the surpluses on Health and the Refugee Service carried forward to the 1951 programmes.

The Finance Sub-Committee had then considered the proposed budget of the Service Programme for 1951 totalling $700,000, made up as follows :

Service to Refugees and Immigrants	$ 450,000
Health Programme	70,000
Scholarships	50,000
Administration	80,000
Emergency Interchurch Aid in Europe	50,000
	$ 700,000

It should be added that the figure of $450,000 covered only that part of the cost of that Service, which is borne by the World Council. Free services and financial support given to the Refugee Service by the I.R.O., the Occupation Costs Funds, Churches and other sources were considerable and the total costs were perhaps double $450,000. Thus the programme would need serious reconsideration if an important part of this support was withdrawn.

The Director of the Department had laid before the Finance Sub-Committee highly provisional and confidential estimates of the income which might be available to cover the above-mentioned expenditure budget. The Finance Sub-Committee also noted that no expenditure would be made under the heading of Emergency Interchurch Aid in Europe unless sufficient revenue to cover the full programme was assured, and that if revenue for the remainder was not fully assured, economies would be made by leaving programmed work undone in order to ensure that there should be no deficit. The Finance Sub-Committee recognised the difficulty of securing firm estimates of revenue for the Service Programme at the beginning of the year and noted that the present very provisional estimates varied from a minimum figure of $575,000 to a maximum figure of $700,000.

At the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee

AGREED : that the proposed budget of the Service Programme of the Department of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees for 1951, totalling $700,000 be approved as a basis of expenditure until the meeting of the Central Committee and responsibility be placed upon the Director of the Department and the Director of the Department of Finance and Business to take any necessary steps to limit expenditure in order to avoid any deficit, if assurances of sufficient income to cover the full programme should not be forthcoming.

E. Provisional report from Special Finance Committee of the British Council of Churches.

Bishop Oxnam reported that the Finance Sub-Committee had received a letter written by the secretary of the British Council of Churches giving a provisional report of the findings of the Special Finance Committee set up by that Council to consider the request made at Toronto for an annual contribution of $30,000 from the member Churches in Great Britain to the World Council budget by 1953. The Finance Sub-Committee had discussed this letter at length and a draft statement in reply to the letter had been prepared on the basis of the discussion at the Finance Sub-Committee. Bishop Oxnam presented this draft statement to the Executive Committee and moved that the statement should be given general approval by the Executive Committee and that the Director of the Finance and Business Department should be directed to communicate the statement to the secretary of the British Council of Churches. Certain amendments were made to the draft statement during the discussion in the Executive Committee. In reply to a question, it was explained that the statement that "consideration would be given to the possibility of transferring some responsibilities from Geneva to the sterling area" referred particularly to the plans for

the Secretary for Women's Work and the plan for the Director of the Youth Department to spend a year in the Far East. It was further suggested that the British Council of Churches should be informed of the proportion of the total budget spent in the U.S.A., in Switzerland and elsewhere, in order that they should be aware of the important proportion of expenditure in America. There was discussion as to whether the statement should be approved by the Executive Committee or should be merely a personal communication from the Director of Finance and Business to Mr. Say. After discussion it was

AGREED : that the Executive Committee give general approval to the statement (See Appendix 4) and instruct the Director of the Finance and Business Department to transmit it to the Secretary of the British Council of Churches.

F. Incorporation.

Bishop Oxnam reported for the information of the Executive Committee that, in accordance with the decisions taken at Toronto, the World Council had now been registered under Swiss law as a legal entity and the headquarters properties at 17 and 19 route de Malagnou transferred into the name of the World Council. The transfer of the properties at Bossey was delayed pending the clearance of certain technical questions regarding tax exemption, but would be made as soon as those questions had been cleared.

G. Authorisation of officers to sign in the name of the World Council.

Bishop Oxnam reported that the Finance Sub-Committee had considered plans to change the present arrangements and to authorise the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, the Treasurer and the General Secretary to sign jointly in the name of the World Council, but had felt it necessary to refer this question back for further study and re-examination at the meetings in August. In order to satisfy legal requirements for the period until the Central Committee meeting, the Executive Committee, at the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee

AGREED to confirm the following resolution which had been adopted by circular vote in October 1950 : that the World Council may be committed by any two of the following officers signing jointly : the General Secretary, the Associate General Secretaries and the Director of the Department of Finance and Business.

H. Salaries.

Bishop Oxnam reported that the Finance Sub-Committee, after discussion of the question of salary levels at Geneva headquarters and a series of detailed related problems concerning family allowances, removal expenses, home leave, annual increments, etc., had decided to appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of Professor Taylor (as chairman), Dr. Michelfelder and Dr. Koechlin or some other Swiss person whom he might appoint, to examine all of these questions and report back to the next meeting.

The Finance Sub-Committee had further considered three specific proposals, namely :

(a) that a settling-in allowance of Frs. 500 be allowed to married staff members coming from abroad.

(b) that the General Secretary, with the advice of a small group, be authorised to make special grants to help staff members financially embarrassed through high expenses for medical emergencies up to a maximum of $3,000 per annum and

(c) that the children's allowances granted by the World Council as supplements to the allowances under Swiss law be raised from Frs. 160 per child per annum to Frs. 500 for the first child and Frs. 400 for the second and subsequent children.

Bishop Oxnam reported that the Finance Sub-Committee recommended the adoption of these proposals on the explicit understanding that they would be subject to review by the above-mentioned ad hoc committee and to possible change in the light of their report.

The Executive Committee

AGREED : to adopt the above three proposals as recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee.

I. Fidelity Insurance.

Bishop Oxnam reported that the Sub-Committee had considered the question of Fidelity Insurance. It had found that, whereas in America it was almost universal practice to take out such insurance, this was rather the exception in Europe. It was nonetheless felt that it would be wise for the World Council to bond all of its employees, especially in view of the high proportion of the income of the World Council which comes from America. At the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee the Executive Committee

AGREED : that the Director of the Finance and Business Department be instructed to take out Fidelity Insurance on all staff members.

J. Wateler Peace Prize.

Bishop Oxnam reported that, as agreed at Toronto, the Finance Sub-Committee had reconsidered the question of the award to the World Council of the Wateler Peace Prize amounting to some $5,000 and recalled that, at Toronto, it had been agreed to allocate $600 of the prize money to be administered by CCIA for expenses of meetings of the Ecumenical Commission for European Unity. At the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee the Executive Committee

AGREED :

(a) to allocate one-fifth of the prize money to the Ecumenical Council of the Netherlands for the furtherance of their work ; and

(b) that the remaining balance of the prize money should be added to the general reserve.

25. Report on the Ecumenical Institute.

The General Secretary recalled that the present year was a period of great change for the Ecumenical Institute. Dr. Koechlin would be reporting on the re-building plans but the whole staff structure and programme of the Institute was also being re-studied by the Board of the Institute. Mr. Henriod, who had given such great service during the formative years, would be retiring in the autumn and it was planned in his place to appoint a hostess. A younger assistant would be appointed to relieve the great burden on Dr. Kraemer but this appointment would be deferred until the autumn of 1952. From January till the autumn of 1952 the Institute would have the services of Professor Wolf of the Episcopal School in Cambridge.

One new idea in the general re-thinking of the programme of the Institute was that there should be set up a Graduate Institute of Ecumenical Studies where theological students could spend one semester of six to nine months in an Institute with full academic status, associated with the University of Geneva and recognised by all important seminaries and faculties. This possibility was under study and a fuller report would be made at a later meeting.

Dr. Koechlin then reported for the building committee appointed at Toronto and recalled the generous gift of Mr. John D. Rockfeller,Jr, to enable the World Council to purchase and to carry out certain transformations of the Château de Bossey. He reported that the building committee had received and given general approval last autumn to the broad plans for the transformation as follows :

During the present meetings of the Executive the building committee had received detailed estimates for the most essential parts of the transformation, namely, the Dépendence, the Colombie and the Musée ; the estimates for these three buildings amounted to Frs. 292,500.

For the remainder of the proposed work only very provisional and general estimates were available. The building committee felt that the remaining work should be classified in the following order of priority :

(1) Chapel
(2) Drainage and remaking wall facings of the Château
(3) The liaisons
(4) Reconstructions of the interior of the Château.

The building committee had been informed that the total funds available included the new gift from Mr. John D. Rockfeller, Jr, which had realised some $236,000 and a sum of $38,000 was available with the Friends of the World Council. The availability of this sum had been mentioned to Mr. Rockfeller in connection with the assessment of the amount needed for the purchase and transformation of the Château. The provisional estimates at present available seemed to indicate that all of the above work could be done with the available funds and that there would be a small balance. The building committee felt that it would be highly important to plan to leave a balance unexpended which could be set aside as a reserve for maintenance costs.

Mr. Taft stated that the Friends of the World Council were more than satisfied to provide the $38,000 mentioned by Dr. Koechlin and very much hoped that all of the planned work could be completed. He felt that the desire to leave a balance for a maintenance reserve should be fully approved but that, if it should be necessary to spend the full available sum in order to complete the planned work, it would not be right to leave work undone in order to hold money back for a reserve. Dr. Koechlin felt that this statement would be fully acceptable to the building committee.

At the recommendation of the building committee the Executive Committee

AGREED :

(a) that approval should be given to the work on the Dépendence, the Colombie and the Musée at a total cost estimated at Frs. 292,500.

(b) that the building committee should be authorised to approve the undertaking of the further work if, after receipt of the architect's detailed estimates, it was clear that the available funds would be sufficient to cover the total costs and, if possible, leave a small balance for a maintenance reserve.

26. Report of the Secretariat of Evangelism.

The General Secretary reported that the chief report of the work of the Secretariat had been given in the report of the Study Department.

The General Secretary reported that following the action of the Toronto meeting of the Central Committee, the United Bible Societies had invited Mr. Chirgwin to become the secretary on evangelism to be supplied to the World Council of Churches by the United Bible Societies, that he had accepted and would begin work early in February. It was

AGREED : to record the gratitude of the World Council of Churches to the United Bible Societies and to Bishop Berggrav for the help thus rendered by the service of Mr. Chirgwin, and for the increasingly close ties between the World Council of Churches and the United Bible Societies which this action makes possible.

27. Committee on Conscientious Objectors.

The General Secretary reported that he had just received the first report of this committee, and it was

AGREED : to note with gratitude the receipt of the first report of the committee, and to request that it be placed before the Central Committee.

28. Special Consultants for the Central Committee.

Upon recommendation of the General Secretary and after discussion, it was

AGREED : to request the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman to appoint such special consultants as may be needed for the coming meeting of the Central Committee.

29. Communication from the Reformed Church in France.

The General Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to a letter from the Reformed Church of France. It was generally agreed that the issues raised had been dealt with in the letter to the member Churches prepared by the Executive Committee.

30. Public Relations.

Mr. Cooke noted the Toronto action calling for further discussion of issues in regard to public relations, and it was

AGREED : to note this reference to the Executive Committee from the Central Committee, and to postpone this discussion until another meeting of the Executive Committee.

31. Report of Journeys.

During the course of the meeting, the Committee heard brief accounts from Dr. Fry concerning his trip around the world in the interests of the U.S.A. Churches' effort to raise funds for relief and interchurch aid, and from Mr. Tomkins concerning his recent trip to India in the interests of Faith and Order and its coming world conference.

32. Appreciation.

Upon the motion of the Bishop of Chichester, it was

AGREED : to express the deep appreciation of the Committee to Dr. Boegner, to Mlle Momméja of La Roche Dieu for accomodating the meeting so graciously ; and to the General Secretary and the staff for their preparations for the meeting.

Upon the motion of Dr. Sisco, it was

AGREED : to express the appreciation of the Committee to the Bishop of Chichester and to Dr. Fry for courteous and efficient chairmanship of the meeting.

Appendix 1

As from Bièvres, February 1, 1951

To the member Churches of the
World Council of Churches.

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches meeting at Bièvres , January 30 - February 1 , gave much thought to the grave situation caused by the international crisis . In considering the many problems raised they had the advantage of help of churchmen from different parts of the world , not belonging to the Committee who had been invited to take part in a preliminary consultation . Amongst those to whom invitations had been extended were two churchmen from Eastern Europe , but to our regret they were not able to attend .

The Executive Committee gave consideration to a variety of problems which came up in the course of the discussion . And they decided to communicate the general result to the member Churches in the form of a letter , which we now offer as a guide to reflection with suggestions for action .

Throughout our discussions we felt keenly our limitations as representatives of the Churches of certain countries only . We did try constantly to bear in mind the Christian testimony of our absent brethren and their problems , so far as we are informed of them . But we have had to work within our limitations . This letter is ours and this fact should be remembered in reading it . It is not for us to judge others in the Church but for each to pray for all .

In our conversations we kept in mind that the chief task of the World Council of Churches is to maintain and develop the fellowship between the Christian Churches . But we recognise that the World Council has also the important task of giving concrete witness to the Lordship of Christ and to the implications of His Lordship for national and international life . We were all the time conscious of

these two obligations which , things being as they are, often enter into conflict. In all that follows we ask you to remember that we ourselves have at least tried our best to keep them fully in our minds .

We talked much about the critical points of the international situation; It has greatly changed since the Central Committee met at Toronto . The effort of the United Nations to contain and resolve the conflict in Korea has thus far proved unsuccessful . Our vice-chairman who had just visited Korea told us of the terrible sufferings of the Korean people which continue unabated . Need we speak of our real grief that no effective solution has been found and need we say that we are thankful that , through the United Nations, the lines of negotiations have been kept open and that it continues to seek an honorable and generally acceptable reconciliation ?

But - and this is what brought a note of profound alarm into our meeting - the international situation has seriously deteriorated and mankind has been brought once more to the brink of a world war. Programmes of rearmament have rapidly increased and the world is still more vividly divided into two armed camps .

There is something underlying the explosive character of the world scene which constantly exercised our minds . It is the vast upsurge of peoples of every race , nation and creed . Some countries have been the scene of far-reaching social reform . Over 700 million people formerly dependent , have recently attained independence . Other peoples are still seeking independence . At the same time the widespread and rightful demand for equality of personal status and for release from poverty and economic oppression remains unmet. Little wonder that the offer of civil rights and freedoms loses its appeal when people are wholly obsessed by the daily struggle against hunger and want .

Everywhere the victim is <u>man</u>. Often he is treated as no better than an object, or at best a tool , rather than as a responsible person . He hears much about peace, but for the sake of peace, he is told either to hate or to rearm. He hears much about freedom , but in the name of freedom , he is in fact deprived of liberty sometimes even from his childhood . He hears much about human rights, but he lives in a world of exploitation , deportations , concentration camps , arbitrary barriers and total war . To bring the comfort and strength of the Gospel to confused and threatened man , whatever his station in life , is the great task of the Church . Only thus can he find joy to live and to love , and learn anew the meaning of hope and peace . Whatever danger he may face, he will be sustained by the full assurance of the sovereignty of God and of man's worth in God's sight .

We believe that in these truths - truths which stand for ever in the Church East and West - are the source and impulse of our endeavour . In the light of them we tried to face baffling and almost intractable problems . Uppermost in our minds were those of the totalitarian doctrine of man in society , the menace of peace, and the denial of social justice . We want to say a few words on each of them .

At Chichester in 1949 the Central Committee spoke of the totalitarian doctrine . "The totalitarian doctrine" , it said , "is a false doctrine". It destroys human integrity and uses the means of slavery in the name of justice . In this respect there is a fundamental conflict between Christian conviction and totalitarian ideology . These are hard words . But a system based on a false doctrine cannot be overcome by force alone and every effort must be made to meet the basic challenge of totalitarian Communism by means other than war .

This brings us to the difficult question of arms and of rearmament. Here we can only say this . Within the World Council constituency there are many different opinions about rearmament and indeed about the attitude of the Christian towards the use of arms . Some of these difficulties were reflected in our own discussions . We considered the conditions which have brought us to our present pass , but concluded that our attention should be centered on the existing crisis. It is this . The governments and many people of the West have come to fear that the more powerful of the Communist nations are ready to extend the area of Communist influence by means of force and , as a result , they are rapidly rearming . In Eastern countries , there is a growing fear that these developments might lead sooner or later to the outbreak of a preventive war. Thus rearmament had become the main and general emphasis everywhere . Its declared purpose is peace, but it can in reality endanger both peace and security and social justice is seriously threatened . In these circumstances , it is an urgent Christian concern - in fact , a concern of all men of good will - that armaments , whatever their necessity , do not dominate the whole life of national and international society . We are convinced that it is the duty of all the Churches to champion peace with justice . The Churches which still have real opportunities to influence government policies have a special duty .

We take the view that the Churches must urge that the new armament programme be exclusively devoted to the purpose of security. We must seek by constant vigilance to prevent the possession of power from precipitating violence . We must not allow the fabric of social justice to be destroyed .

Every chance for negotiations must be used . When military action is in question , the nations should not act unilaterally but heed the judgment of the United Nations . Everything must be done that can build up the authority of this instrument of world order , and U.N. Peace Observer Commissions ought to be placed at every danger spot . All of us must be on our guard against hysteria, for fatal damage can be done by irresponsible and wild exaggeration .

We are convinced that the Churches in many countries <u>could</u> help along some of these lines , and we ask you , as we have asked ourselves , whether you are doing what you can . We must remember that we may all have to live for a long time in the presence of conflicting systems .This is a call to patient steadfastness and to the simple but difficult Christian virtues . And even in these circumstances we must use every influence we can to press for the objective of bringing all national armaments under international control.

Then there is the great challenge of social justice . One of the gravest dilemmas the nations are in consists in the danger that rearmament will itself drain the vigour out of social reconstruction . Thus governments will aggravate the very disease which they seek to heal.We must struggle that this shall not be the case. All nations which possess great economic and industrial resources , must promptly afford economic and technical assistance on such a scale as will eventually assure an effective response to the needs of the under-privileged . Effective co-operation must be achieved in this field,too, through the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies .

This seems to us to mean imaginative thinking and action of a wholly new order . The peoples have seen the vision of social justice ; it is for us to help to transform it into reality . All people in privileged countries , particularly Christians , must strive to enter sympathetically into the social demands of the needy . "From each according to his ability to each according to his need" has its roots in the teaching of Jesus .

We are at a loss how to share with you the sense of urgency with which we were impressed as we discussed this matter . The Churches have by no means neglected social action , but they have fallen short of what they should have done and , often , of what they would have wished to do . It is clear to us that personal sacrifice must be accepted if the hungry are to be fed and the naked to be clothed, and Christians , above all , should accept it with joy.

We would assure our Christian brethren under totalitarian régimes that we rejoice with them in the evidence that the Word of God makes its power felt among them . As Christians in East and West think of and pray for each other , let them do so with the mind that was in Christ Jesus and therefore look not on their own things but on the things of others (Phil.2 : 1 - 11).

The ends of true peace and social justice must be the constant concern of all Christian men and of all Churches .

As we continue to face the perils and perplexities of our day, let us in humility and faith turn to the only source of abiding strength,praying from every corner of the earth :

> Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide we beseech Thee the Nations of the world into the way of justice and truth and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness ; through Jesus Christ our Lord . Amen .

For the Executive Committee of the
World Council of Churches:

The Chairman George Cicestr

The General Secretary W.A.Visser 't Hooft

Provisional 1950 Actual Expenditure compared with Approved Level of Expenditure and Approved Level of Expenditure for 1951 compared with 1951 Budget

U.S. Dollars

		Approved Level 1950	Actual 1950 (Provisional)	Budget 1951	Approved Level 1951
General Secretariat					
Geneva	$	60,408	49,543.31	63,151	59,496
New York		39,650	38,641.78	39,650	n/c
London		3,220	2,694.65	3,220	n/c
Far East		2,000	116.67	3,000	2,250
(sub-total)		(105,278)	(90,996.41)	(109,021)	(104,616)
Study		30,550	28,054.50	35,807	33,307
Youth					
Geneva		19,166	16,746.76	19,166	n/c
New York		16,000	15,997.70	16,000	n/c
(sub-total)		(35,166)	(32,744.46)	(35,166)	(n/c)
Evangelism		8,472	6,792.96	8,472	7,477
Women's Work		8,500	5,907.40	8,500	n/c
Library		3,720	3,649.20	3,720	n/c
Ecumenical Review		2,500	1,600.30	2,500	1,500
Ecumenical Institute		65,000	52,709.83	65,000	n/c
Finance & Business		-	-	-	-
Faith and Order					
European Expenses		14,684	14,346.45	14,684	n/c
American Expenses		6,000	5,966.60	6,000	n/c
(sub-total)		(20,684)	(20,313.05)	(20,684)	(n/c)
Reserve for Second Assembly		15,000	15,000.-	20,000	n/c
General Reserve		20,000	20,000.-	20,000	16,000
Grants to:					
C.C.I.A.		29,530	27,530.73	35,530	32,030
E.P.S.		600	600.-	600	2,000
	$	345,000	305,898.84	365,000	350,000

n/c indicates no change in level of budget approved at Toronto.

Provisional 1950 Actual Expenditure compared with Approved Level of Expenditure and Approved Level of Expenditure for 1951 compared with 1951 Budget

Swiss francs

		Approved Level 1950	Actual 1950 (Provisional)	Budget 1951	Approved Level 1951
General Secretariat					
Geneva	Fr	258,547	212,045.36	270,287	254,645
New York		169,702	165,386.82	169,702	n/c
London		13,781	11,533.12	13,781	n/c
Far East		8,560	499.35	12,840	9,630
(sub-total)		(450,590)	(389,464.65)	(466,610)	(447,758)
Study		130,754	120,073.28	153,254	142,554
Youth					
Geneva		82,030	71,676.12	82,030	n/c
New York		68,480	68,470.16	68,480	n/c
(sub-total)		(150,510)	(140,146.28)	(150,510)	(n/c)
Evangelism		36,260	29,073.85	36,260	32,000
Women's Work		36,380	25,283.67	36,380	n/c
Library		15,920	15,618.59	15,920	n/c
Ecumenical Review		10,700	6,849.28	10,700	6,420
Ecumenical Institute		278,200	225,598.06	278,200	n/c
Finance and Business		-	-	-	-
Faith and Order					
European Expenses		62,848	61,402.82	62,848	n/c
American Expenses		25,680	25,537.05	25,680	n/c
(sub-total)		(88,528)	(86,939.87)	(88,528)	n/c
Reserve for Second Assembly		64,200	64,200.-	85,600	n/c
General Reserve		85,600	85,600.-	85,600	68,480
Grants to:					
C.C.I.A.		126,388	117,831.53	152,068	137,090
E.P.S.		2,570	2,568.-	2,570	8,560
	Fr	1,476,600	1,309,247.06	1,562,200	1,498,000

n/c indicates no change in level of budget approved at Toronto.

Appendix 4

Statement to be communicated to the Secretary of the British Council of Churches in answer to his letter of January 17, 1951.

The Executive Committee received and considered a letter from Mr.David Say, Secretary of the British Council of Churches, giving a provisional report of the findings of the special finance committee set up by that Council to consider the request made at the Toronto Central Committee meeting, for an annual contribution of £ 10,714 ($ 30,000) from the member Churches in Great Britain to the World Council budget by 1953. The Executive Committee noted that the official report of that special finance committee would be received in April and would be available for consideration at the Central Committee meeting at Rolle in August .

The Executive Committee decided to defer full consideration of the questions raised by the provisional report until the Central Committee meeting in August , but to communicate the following provisional comments to Mr.Say with the request that he should lay them before the special finance committee of the British Council of Churches .

a) the Executive Committee appreciates the action of the British Council of Churches in taking under earnest study the requested increase in contributions to the World Council budget . The Executive Committee further appreciates the effort made by the member Churches in Great Britain in raising their contributions from £ 1,240 in 1947 to £ 5,075 in 1950 and the assurance given in the provisional report that the British Churches will "do their utmost to maintain and to steadily improve upon the figure of approximately £ 5,000 which it is hoped to contribute in 1950".

b) the Executive Committee notes that the figure of £ 10,714 per annum "is likely to prove quite beyond the capacity of the British Churches". The Executive Committee draws the attention of the B.C.C. to the fact that the objectives accepted at the Toronto Central Committee meeting were based on securing 30% of total member Church contributions from those in countries other than the U.S.A. and that information is not yet available as to increases which may be possible from areas other than Great Britain ; under the circumstances the Executive Committee feels that it is premature either to consider reducing the total budget or to consider modifying the aim of achieving the 70:30 proportion by 1953 .

c) as regards the "additional suggestions" in paragraph 4 of the provisional report, the Executive Committee wishes to communicate the following information to the B.C.C. :

(a) there are important non-financial considerations involved in the location of the headquarters in Geneva. As to the purely financial considerations , the World Council has inverted some £ 58,000 in the headquarters properties and some £ 80,000 in the Château de Bossey. Removal to another place would involve capital loss , apart from removal expenses, which might well cancel out any economies for the succeeding two or three years. Within that period the relationship of costs in Switzerland and other countries may change. Consideration will , however , be given to the possibility of transferring some responsibilities from Geneva to the sterling area .

(b) the plans for the Second Assembly in the U.S.A. are well advanced and, if the Assembly is held at Northwestern University, that University has expressed its willingness to give $ 25,000 towards the cost of travel of delegates to Evanston. It might quite possibly prove more difficult to finance an Assembly in Europe than the planned Assembly at Evanston . As to the cost to member Churches in respect of the travel of their delegates , to hold the Assembly in Europe would merely transfer an expense from the European Churches to the American and Far Eastern Churches .

Finally , at the recommendation of the Finance Committee , the Executive Committee agreed that , as suggested by the B.C.C. , objectives set for member Church contributions , should in future be stated wherever practical in the appropriate local currency and that reports of the contributions received from member Churches should , wherever possible , be expressed in local currency as well as in Swiss francs and U.S.dollars .